

# **Learning English with CBC Calgary**

## **Weekly Newscast**

### **February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

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#### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. origin	a) twelve
	2. violence	b) actions to get a country to meet some demands
	3. dozen	c) representatives
	4. options	d) to officially quit a job; usually written in a notice/letter
	5. ban	e) choices; methods
	6. officials	f) strong
	7. sanctions	g) ancestry; beginning
	8. powerful	h) demonstrators
	9. protesters	i) to not allow; stop
	10. resignation	j) actions that cause pain or injury

#### Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

**caught up** – to be in the middle of something; forced to be involved

**freezing of funds** – to prevent access to money; money is not able to be moved or taken out

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ has begun in Kyiv and many Ukrainians have been caught up in it.	a) Worrying about friends and family b) Deadly violence
2. The violence _____ of dozens of people in the Ukrainian capital.	a) has taken the lives b) has been the result
3. Canada is thinking about using sanctions _____ to the government of President Yanukovych.	a) to send a message b) to send support
4. Sanctions could include a _____ on government officials.	a) freezing of funds b) travel ban
5. Yanukovych's government has often called _____ his resignation, "terrorists."	a) the business men supporting b) the protestors asking for

### Discussion Questions

Did you know about the protests in the Ukraine before today? How do you find out about international news?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

booming (increasing/growing a lot)	requests (asking for)
jerseys (sport sweaters)	grow (increase especially a business)
compared to (looking at two things for similarities and differences)	
slow down (decrease in something)	round (a stage in a competition)

1. My mother and I have a cake-baking business and we are hoping to \_\_\_\_\_ it by 25% over the next two years. We get a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ to make wedding cakes.
2. My job now is better paid but more stressful \_\_\_\_\_ my last job.
3. There has been a \_\_\_\_\_ in the housing market so prices have gone down.
4. When Canada was playing a game in the Olympics, everyone at the bank wore a hockey \_\_\_\_\_ to work.
5. Fort McMurray is \_\_\_\_\_ so it is very easy to find a well-paying job there.
6. The first \_\_\_\_\_ of the hockey tournament was not very interesting because some teams were much better than others; however, by the medal \_\_\_\_\_ every game was exciting.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **True** or **False**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ People in Alberta enjoy watching the Olympics.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ There have only been a few requests to open bars early to watch the hockey games.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Half of the requests to open bars early were in Edmonton.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ There has been a jump in the number of sports jerseys sold.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Stores expect sales of hockey jerseys to stay high for the rest of 2014.

### Discussion Questions

How do you like to watch sports events, at home on TV or with a group of friends? Do you agree that it was a good idea to open bars early in the morning in Alberta to let people go there to watch the gold medal hockey game?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) councillor	a) equipment tools
	2) avalanche	b) trained capable
	3) raise	c) correct right
	4) experienced	d) snow slide landslide
	5) gear	e) friend peer
	6) fellow	f) representative delegate
	7) proper	g) gather collect

### Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

**snowmobile** – a machine with skis and a motor that you use to ride on the snow

**tree well** – the hole around the trunk (base) of a tree

**geophysicist** – a scientist who studies the earth and its atmosphere

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. How many people died in the mountains on Family Day weekend?
2. Who is Wade Galloway?
3. What did Galloway raise money for?
4. What happened to Chris McCoy on Family Day weekend?
5. What did McCoy's wife say about him and how he died?
6. How did Tom Podivinsky die over the weekend?
7. What did Podivinsky's brother do?

### Discussion Questions

Have you ever tried snowmobiling? What winter activities would you like to try? What safety steps should you take when in the mountains in the winter?

## Language Focus

### Identifying Present Continuous Verbs and Gerunds

**Present Continuous verbs** –(form of) Be + verb ending in 'ing'

*When do we use the present continuous?*

- To show an action is happening right now that will end in the future  
Ex: You **are studying** English. (the action is now and studying will end in the future)
- To show a definite plan for the future  
Ex: I **am going** to take a rest later.

**Gerund** – a verb ending in 'ing' that acts as a noun in a sentence

*When do we use gerunds?*

- If we put two verbs beside each other, the second verb is often an infinitive (to + base form) but it can be a gerund. Only certain verbs can be followed by an infinitive or a gerund (like to/V-ing, love to/V-ing, want to, enjoy V-ing, regret V-ing...)
- If there is a verb after a preposition, it will be a gerund.
- Gerunds can be the subject or the object of a sentence.

*How to identify if the word is a present continuous verb or a gerund:*

1. Look for verbs ending in 'ing'.
  2. Look for the 'be' verb before the verb ending in 'ing'.
  3. If the 'be' verb is in the present tense, the next word will be a continuous verb.
  4. If the 'be' verb is not in the present tense, the word ending in 'ing' may be a gerund.
- \*\* Be careful, the word could also be an 'ing' adjective (boring, exciting...).**

**Let's look at some examples from the first news story. Decide if a present continuous verb or a gerund is being used in each sentence. Answers are in the appendix.**

1. Canadians of Ukrainian origin are **worrying** about friends and family caught up in the deadly violence that has begun again in Kyiv.
2. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says Canada is **thinking** about a number of options to send a message to the government of President Viktor Yanukovych.
3. Sanctions against Ukraine could include a travel ban on government officials and a **freezing** of funds owned by the powerful Ukrainian businessmen who support Yanukovych.
4. Yanukovych's government has often called the protesters who are **asking** for his resignation, "terrorists."

## Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	FEBRUARY 21 <sup>ST</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for February 21 <sup>st</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	Canadians of Ukrainian origin are worrying about friends and family caught up in the deadly violence that has begun again in Kyiv. The violence has taken the lives of dozens of people in the Ukrainian capital. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says Canada is thinking about a number of options to send a message to the government of President Viktor Yanukovich, including sanctions. Sanctions against Ukraine could include a travel ban on government officials and a freezing of funds owned by the powerful Ukrainian businessmen who support Yanukovich. Yanukovich's government has often called the protesters asking for his resignation, "terrorists."	0:10
Story 2	It seems people can't get enough of our Olympic athletes. Since the Games began, business in Alberta is booming--in some cases, even more than expected. The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission says there have been more requests from bars to open earlier. THAT number sits at 28 province wide. Half of those requests came from Calgary businesses. And they aren't the only ones seeing their business grow. Stores that sell Olympic sports jerseys say - compared to a non-Olympic year - there is a 27 hundred percent increase in things like jerseys, t-shirts and headwear. Wayne Renick is the president of a store called Jersey City. He says Olympic jerseys make up about 60-70 per cent of sales. Businesses say they are ready for the slow down once the Olympics end. But they expect one last bump in sales if the Canada's mens hockey team makes it to the gold medal round.	01:04
Story 3	The Family Day long weekend was a deadly one in the mountains. A Lethbridge city councillor, Wade Galloway, died in an avalanche while snowboarding in Waterton Lakes National Park. Galloway helped raise money for the Canadian Avalanche Foundation. Chris McCoy of Sylvan Lake was snowmobiling near Revelstoke when he was also killed in an avalanche. Kathy McCoy says her husband was an experienced snowmobiler who had all the proper safety gear and that he died while trying to help a fellow snowmobiler. And a man well known in Calgary's oil patch died while skiing in Whitefish, Montana. Forty-eight year old Tom Podivinsky fell into a tree well. Podivinsky was a geophysicist. He was also the brother of former alpine racer Ed Podivinsky.	02:23

## Appendix: Answer Keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
<b>g</b>	1. origin	a) twelve
<b>j</b>	2. violence	b) actions to get a country to meet some demands
<b>a</b>	3. dozen	c) representatives
<b>e</b>	4. options	d) to officially quit a job; usually written in a notice/letter
<b>i</b>	5. ban	e) choices; methods
<b>c</b>	6. officials	f) strong
<b>b</b>	7. sanctions	g) ancestry; beginning
<b>f</b>	8. powerful	h) demonstrators
<b>h</b>	9. protesters	i) to not allow; stop
<b>d</b>	10. resignation	j) actions that cause pain or injury

#### Listening

1. _____ has begun in Kyiv and many Ukrainians have been caught up in it.	a) Worrying about friends and family <b>b) Deadly violence</b>
2. The violence _____ of dozens of people in the Ukrainian capital.	<b>a) has taken the lives</b> b) has been the result
3. Canada is thinking about using sanctions _____ to the government of President Yanukovich.	<b>a) to send a message</b> b) to send support
4. Sanctions could include a _____ on government officials.	a) freezing of funds <b>b) travel ban</b>
5. Yanukovich's government has often called _____ his resignation, "terrorists."	a) the business men supporting <b>b) the protestors asking for</b>

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

1. My mother and I have a cake-baking business and we are hoping to grow it by 25% over the next two years. We get a lot of requests to make wedding cakes.
2. My job now is better paid but more stressful compared to my last job.
3. There has been a slow down in the housing market so prices have gone down.
4. When Canada was playing a game in the Olympics, everyone at the bank wore a hockey jersey to work.
5. Fort McMurray is booming so it is very easy to find a well paying job there.

- The first round of the hockey tournament was not very interesting because some teams were much better than others; however, by the medal round every game was exciting.

### Listening

- T People in Alberta enjoy watching the Olympics.
- F There have only been a few requests to open bars early to watch the hockey games.
- F Half of the requests to open bars early were in Edmonton.
- T There has been a jump in the number of sports jerseys sold.
- F Stores expect sales of hockey jerseys to stay high for the rest of 2014.

### News story 3

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
<b>f</b>	1) councillor	a) equipment tools
<b>d</b>	2) avalanche	b) trained capable
<b>g</b>	3) raise	c) correct right
<b>b</b>	4) experienced	d) snow slide landslide
<b>a</b>	5) gear	e) friend peer
<b>e</b>	6) fellow	f) representative delegate
<b>c</b>	7) proper	g) gather collect

### Listening

- How many people died in the mountains on Family Day weekend?  
**Three men died**
- Who is Wade Galloway?  
**A Lethbridge city councillor**
- What did Galloway raise money for?  
**Galloway helped raise money for the Canadian Avalanche Foundation.**
- What happened to Chris McCoy on Family Day weekend?  
**Chris McCoy was snowmobiling and he was also killed in an avalanche.**
- What did McCoy's wife say about him and how he died?  
**Kathy McCoy says her husband was an experienced snowmobiler who had all the proper safety gear, and that he died while trying to help a fellow snowmobiler.**
- How did Tom Podivinsky die over the weekend?  
**While skiing in Whitefish, Montana, he fell into a tree well.**



7. What did Podivinsky's brother do? **He was a former alpine racer.**

### Language Focus

1. **Present Continuous:** Canadians of Ukrainian origin are **worrying** about friends and family caught up in the deadly violence that has begun again in Kyiv.
2. **Present Continuous:** Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says Canada is **thinking** about a number of options to send a message to the government of President Viktor Yanukovich.
3. **Gerund:** Sanctions against Ukraine could include a travel ban on government officials and a **freezing** of funds owned by the powerful Ukrainian businessmen who support Yanukovich.
4. **Present Continuous:** Yanukovich's government has often called the protesters who are **asking** for his resignation, "terrorists."